

State of Illinois
Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor

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Illinois State Police
Larry G. Trent, Director

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Internet

Crimes

Unit

Keeping Cyberspace Safe



Illinois State Police



What is the Internet Crimes Unit (ICU)?

Today, virtually all serious crimes have a real or potential link to computers or any of the assorted forms of electronic media which have become commonplace in modern society. The expanse of cyberspace offers technologically savvy criminals unprecedented opportunities to commit their illicit activities from anywhere on the globe with the simple click of a mouse. This all-crimes strategy includes community awareness/education, enforcement, and legislative components. Each strategy has the potential to yield tangible results that will contribute to an enhanced quality of life for the people who live and work in Illinois.

How can the ICU be Contacted?

The ICU, a one-stop shop for all internet questions or concerns regarding safety or crime, is available 24-hours-a-day, 7-days-a-week. The unit serves the general public, schools, and the law enforcement community. Direct links to a dedicated website for the ICU have been placed on all state webpages so the public can report a crime on-line. The ICU will work with local, state, and federal law enforcement to investigate crimes reported to them. Please call

1-888-70CRIME, or link to us on-line at www.isp.state.il.us/icu and an ICU employee will be happy to assist you.

Definitions

A **hacker** is a person who uses the Internet to access computers without permission.

A **spammer** is someone who sends mass amounts of unsolicited commercial e-mail.

A **virus** is software that spreads from computer to computer and damages files or disrupts your system.

Safeguarding Your Identity

Phishing is an e-mail sent to an individual trying to solicit personal information. An example is a pop-up message claiming to be from a business or organization that you might deal with regularly.

An example of the type of message may read, "We suspect an unauthorized transaction on your account. To ensure that your account is not compromised please click the link below and confirm your identity." Never click the link or reply to these types of messages that ask for personal information.

If you are asked for personal information such as your name, e-mail or home address, phone number, or account number, find out how this information is going to be used and how it will be protected. If you have children, tell them to not provide the information.

If you are doing business with a company that may have a need to contact you, don't reply on-line. Instead, you should contact the company in a way that you know is secure.

If you are shopping on-line, prior to providing any financial or personal information, check to make sure the website is using a secure website.

Read the website privacy policies. They explain how your personal information is to be used and the security measures that are in place to protect your information.

File-Sharing or Free Software

File-sharing can give people access to a wealth of information including music, games, and software. File-sharing also has a number of risks. You must





check the proper settings or you could allow access not just to the files that you intend to share, but to other pertinent information stored on your computer. Be sure to read the end-user License Agreement to understand the side effects of any free download.

Spyware

Any website that you visit can load spyware onto your computer. A commercially available anti-spyware will help eliminate this problem.

E-mail Attachments and Links

Don't open an e-mail attachment unless you are expecting it or know what it contains. Some virus-laden e-mails appear to come from friends or have an appealing subject line. Unless you open it, most viruses won't damage your computer.

Don't be an e-victim to an e-criminal. Visit us on-line at www.isp.state.il.us/icu to learn more about this valuable resource.

Chat Rooms

Chat rooms allow you to communicate with people around the block or around the world. It's like being on a party line only you type rather than talk. A chat room is the most dangerous area on the Internet. People are not always who they seem to be.

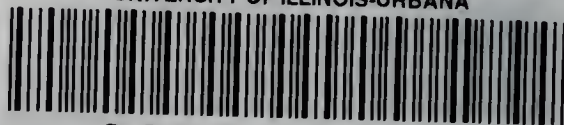
- Never give out personal information.
- Never arrange a face-to-face meeting.
- Be suspicious of anyone who tries to turn you against your parents, teachers, or friends.
- If you encounter a problem on-line, don't be afraid to talk to your parents.

1-888-70CRIME

(1-888-702-7463)

www.isp.state.il.us/icu

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